



**FEBRUARY 26, 2004**  
**SENATOR NICKLES OPENING STATEMENT DURING HEARING**  
**WITH COLIN POWELL**

Mr. Secretary, we're delighted to have you come before the Senate Budget Committee again. We appreciate your appearance not only last year, but this year. You've done an outstanding job. I compliment you in your leadership as secretary of state through a very challenging time in a lot of areas in the world. You've been an outstanding leader representing this government – this administration, and I compliment you for it. You're here today to present the administration's budget on international affairs. It's a budget -- this particular time, is a very big challenge. We have enormous deficits. We're calling almost for a freeze – the administration has proposed almost a freeze in all spending other than defense and homeland security and, I might say, international affairs. Your budget actually consumes -- your increases consume almost all the growth revenue in non-defense. It's a big increase. And so we look forward to your defending that increase.

There's big increases for the Millennium Challenge and also for the very big battle of combating AIDS. I happen to be a supporter of Millennium Challenge but I'm also trying to put a budget together and I realize how difficult and challenging that can be. I appreciate your willingness to cooperate with us. Just a couple of other editorial comments. You mention now that the U.N. is cooperating with us much more in Iraq. I'm concerned the U.N. was pulling out when we had an unfortunate bombing incident right outside the headquarters. Next thing we know, the U.N. was pulling out. And we have shown great leadership. And I compliment you, I compliment the president, I compliment Ambassador Bremer and others. I have a staff member that's working over there. All of us have constituents that are serving over there, but I'm always questioning sometimes the U.N.'s resolve. And maybe that's just an editorial comment and not even asking you to respond to it, but I am concerned about it.

You mentioned it was a noble cause. It's that and more. And I look at what this administration has done in Afghanistan and in Iraq and I look at it as the liberation. And you mentioned the women having freedoms that they haven't enjoyed, the fact that their countries have been liberated. And I object to the term

occupation. We're planning on leaving; correct me, if I'm wrong. And so, we're in the process of trying to expedite turning over total government, frankly, to the Iraqi people in a systematic way, as soon as possible. Some people talk about occupation. I think it's a liberation and I would encourage your people maybe to use that word.

One other comment: You mentioned Mr. Khan and the fact that he had distributed nuclear secrets. I don't see him being punished and I'm concerned. This one individual, and maybe his collaboration of scientists, evidently were spreading nuclear secrets throughout the world to -- you mentioned North Korea and Iran and Libya. It looks like he's getting off scot-free. And I am interested in your comment on that. You also mentioned about 48 percent of your budget is directed toward fighting terrorism for international security and so on. You also mentioned the terrorist attacks. Some people -- and I think maybe politically, maybe not -- but some have said that your speech before the U.N. was hype; the president said our going into Iraq was hyped or inflated or misled -- I've heard that term coming from some people; We were misled into going in to Iraq or lied to ; some people use that term. I looked at a speech that President Clinton gave in '98 to -- I think it was made to the Pentagon -- and he said, Now let's imagine the future. What if he fails to comply? And he was talking about Saddam Hussein. He said, If we fail to act or we take some ambiguous third route, which gives him more opportunities to develop programs of weapons of mass destruction, and he continues to press for a release of sanctions and continue to ignore the solemn commitments he's made, then he will conclude the international community's lost its will, he will conclude that he can go right on more to rebuild an arsenal of devastating destruction. And some days, some way, I guarantee you, he'll use the arsenal. And I think every one of you has really worked on this for any length of time believes it.

That was President Clinton. That was made in '98. That was made in February of '98. I might mention we had two embassies that were bombed later that summer in Africa. It killed a couple hundred people, all employees of the United States, some U.S. citizens.

I'm offended when people use words like deliberately misled. I happen to know you well and you're my friend and President Bush is my friend, and this is serious. And people make allegations of being lied to or misled leading up to this war, I'm offended by it. And you've been brought into because of your excellent speech, I might say, before the United Nations a year ago. I would like your comments on the reaction to your speech a year ago and I welcome you before the committee.